(b) whether the question of Soviet debt burden on India and its repayment was also discussed; and

(c) if so, the precise issues and the proposals discussed and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) to (c) His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, paid a State Visit to India from October 2-5, 2000. During the visit, the entire gamut of Indo-Russian bilateral relations and regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern were discussed.

In the Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit on October 5, 2000, Russia w&comed India's voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing and appreciated the Indian Government's efforts to develop a broad national consensus on the issue of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. A Memorandum of Understanding in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was signed during the visit, which emphasises continuity in cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

During discussions with the President of the Russian Federation, the question of trade and economic cooperation through the rupee repayment track was discussed and further reviewed during the 7th session of the Indo Russian Inter Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural cooperation held in Moscow in January 2001.

Foreign tours of Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs

4453. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign tours have been undertaken by him and the Prime Minister recently;

(b) whether any agreement to combat the terrorism or else has been made with USA and any other countries during these tours; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) Yes, Sir.
The Prime Minister visited Vietnam, Indonesia and Iran and the External Affairs Minister visited Germany, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Denmark, Sweden, USA and Iran recently.

(b) and (c) The agreements signed during the visits are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Foreign tours of Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs

SI. No.	Name of country visited	Dat&Month of visit	Agreements signed
1	2	3	4
	PRIME MINISTER		
1.	Vietnam	7-10 January, 2001	1. Protocol on Cultural Exchange Programme extending the period of CEP for years 2001, 2002 & 2003. 2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Atomic Energy of India and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment of Vietnam. 3. Agreement on Tourism Cooperation.
2.	Indonesia	10-14 January, 2001	1. Agreement on Cooperative Activities in the field of Defence. 2. Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the Joint Commission. 3. Memorandum of Understanding in the fields of Science and Technology for the period 2001-2002 4. Work Plan under MoU for Cooperation in the field of Agriculture for 2001 and 2002. 5. Arrangment regarding Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2001-2003.

1	2	3	4
3.	Iran	10-13 April, 2001	1. Agreement on Trade & Economic Cooperation 2. Agreement on Customs Cooperation 3. MOU on Information Technology 4. MOU on Cooperation in the field of Energy 5. MOU on Cooperation in the field of Power (Conventional and Non-Con ventionai Sources) 6. MOU on Technical Cooperation
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS		MINISTER	
4.	Germany	17-18 Jan., 2001	Nil
5.	Saudi Arabia	20-21 Jan., 2001	Nil
6.	Syria	30 Jan-1 Feb., 2001	Nil
7.	Egypt	2-5 February,	Nil
8.	Denmark	3rd April 2001	Nil
9.	Sweden	4th April, 2001	Nil
10.	USA	5-7 April, 2001	Nil However India and US have already set up a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism in the year 2000.
11.	Tehran	10-13 April 2001	As mentioned against SI. No. 3

US Ambassador's links with CIA

4454. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the designated US Ambassador to the country is having close working relations with the CIA;

(b) if so, what are the political and other implications involved in his Ambassadorial assignment to the country; and

(c) Government's reaction with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) to (c) It is assumed that as a former U.S. public official, the U.S. Ambassador-designate to India would have had dealings